

their FAA-approved devices onboard. I ask the chairman to work with me to encourage the FAA to issue a rule expeditiously.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. In answer, I thank the Congressman from Georgia for bringing this issue to my attention, to our attention. I am sure that the Department will consider all valid points of view in this process, and I stand committed to making certain that the Department issues its final rule as you've suggested in an expeditious manner in the very near term.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the chairman.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KING of Iowa:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide homeownership assistance for applicants described in 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I would like the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) to know if he would not speak on the matter, I am quite willing to accept the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the offer of the chairman. I wonder if he might concede to a 15-second blurb here in order to get a couple of words into the RECORD. I appreciate the incentive and the concession.

This amendment simply says none of the funds shall be used to hire people who are not legal and eligible to work within the United States. That's it. I think we have a consensus on this.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. This amendment is merely a restatement of current law which already prohibits the employment of unauthorized aliens. I do not read it as imposing any new burden on those who use funds appropriated under this act. Rather, it is fully consistent with the current legal obligations imposed on all homeownership assistance applicants regardless of whether or not they use such funds.

I accept the amendment and yield back.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's acceptance of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KING of Iowa:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 410. None of the funds in this Act may be used to employ workers described in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment follows through on the theme of the previous amendment, only it addresses that no homeownership assistance will be applicable to those who aren't legal to work or lawfully present in the United States. Again, it is a simple concept. It supports current law.

Mr. OLVER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KING of Iowa. I am happy to yield.

Mr. OLVER. As far as I can see, the amendment is essentially the same. It is based on exactly the same citation in the U.S. Code but has a different target. But again, the amendment is merely a restatement of current law which already prohibits the employment of unauthorized aliens. So again, the rest of my previous statement applies, and I am willing to accept the amendment if the ranking member is also willing to do so.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the chairman for his comments. I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. I accept the amendment as well.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The amendment was agreed to.

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AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KING of Iowa:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to implement the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (relating to wage rate requirements; commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is the amendment that strikes the requirements for the Davis-Bacon Act within the appropriations of this bill, and the Davis-Bacon issue is something that I have lived with for at least my 28 years in the construction business as an owner and operator, and we'd add about four or five more years as an employee.

I have received Davis-Bacon wage scales. I've paid Davis-Bacon wage scales. I've managed my way through the combination of paperwork and requirements that are part of this. I'm maybe the only one in Congress who has real hands-on experience for years of dealing with the additional costs that are involved with the Federal wage scale that's Davis-Bacon.

And my numbers throughout my history of working with these projects vary from anywhere from 8 percent increase in the cost of the projects up to 35 percent increase in the cost of the projects. I round that down to a round number of 20 percent additional costs.

We're in a situation where we're arguing that we need to bring in more labor from foreign countries to do this work, and yet we're setting a Federal wage scale for this work, and we know that labor is developed by supply and demand. I am a supporter of labor being able to collectively negotiate the value of their work, but I'm not a supporter of the Federal Government telling the workers and the employers what they need to pay their employees.

I believe that if two adult individuals want to enter into a contractual agreement, they should be able to do so without interference of the Federal Government. This is not a prevailing wage in practice. It's only a prevailing wage by statute. Actually, it is union scale imposed upon wherever the money is spent.

Any construction project with \$2,000 or more in it takes the inflationary cost of a Davis-Bacon wage scale. Some places, it's actually below the prevailing wage. Other places, it distorts that prevailing wage dramatically. In almost all cases, it costs a lot of money, and for example, if it's a 20 percent increase, then if you can build five projects or 5 miles of road, this will let you build six. Why would we limit the resource and the infrastructure that we are building with this project by imposing such a draconian, top-down,